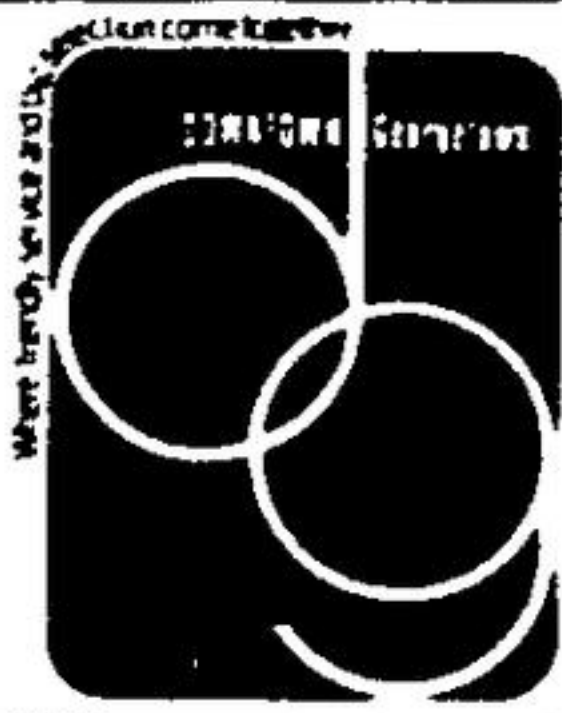


## Buy fire dept. car

Georgetown American Motors won the bidding to supply Halton Hills fire department with a car. The dealership had the low bid of \$11,404.90 for a vehicle which met the specifications.



Columbian Squires' Chief Squire Troy Nolan presents a check to Artie White, president of the Canadian Cancer Society's Acton Unit, as chief councillor Gerry Disano and burser Robert Disano look on.

## Neighborhood Watch topic is home security

One of the ways of reducing crime is through home security, and over 100 Acton people learned just how to go about it at the second Neighborhood Watch meeting last Tuesday evening at the arena.

"Your home may no longer be your castle," Halton Regional Police Constable Jim Drennan told the concerned homeowners. But he said, one of the reasons that is happening is because the opportunity is there for a house to be broken into. By securing the home, Drennan admitted, it may not stop the problem "but it does mean you are not doing nothing about it."

New crime prevention officer for Halton Hills, Bob Ustrzycki, told the homeowners they were making it easy for the criminal to get into the house. Garage doors are left

open or unlocked, proper locks are not used, etc.

Home security forces burglars to increase the time it takes to get into the home, increase the visibility, and increase the noise, he noted.

"Proper locks will not guarantee no one will get into the house," Ustrzycki warned. "but it will make it a bit harder and they will go down the street to someone who has left the door open."

The same principal applies to Operation Identification the officer noted. By engraving, or photographing all valuables, the property is harder to fence (sell). It is easier for the criminal to go to a home without Operation Identification.

Ustrzycki showed a slide/tape presentation entitled "Protect Your Home." In the presentation, it was pointed out that exterior doors should be solid with a dead bolt. Two types of locks would help in securing the home. They are the bolts which latch on the inside, with a key on the outside, or a key on the inside, and a key on the outside.

Never hide the key in the mail box or under the mat, the slides warned. And never leave notes on the door saying no one is home.

Windows not very secure? Sliding patio doors can be made secure by putting a piece of wood in the bottom track, and screws at the top to prevent it from being lifted out when closed. Basement windows can have a metal bar installed, anchored to the window frame. Milk chutes should be locked and air-conditioning holes in walls secured.

Inside the home, a linen closet can be easily converted into a security closet for valuables. Locks and special hinges go a long way to prevent burglars from being taken.

Two good exterior lights will help in discouraging any would-be thieves. And the area around the garage should be well lit, the presentation said.

Garage windows should be barred or hinged shut and padlocked.

Locks should be changed if a key is lost, and an unoccupied house can be partially protected by having a neighbor pick up the mail, and park a car in the driveway. Lights should be on a timer.

Peep holes on doors are a good idea, but night chains provide little security. Not every home needs an elaborate burglar alarm.

The crowd at the meeting also learned how to fill out suspect identity charts. Homes in a Neighborhood Watch community have the charts handy so that if a person witnesses a crime, they can fill out the chart immediately giving a description of the person, while it is still fresh in their mind.

This chart can also be used for evidence in court. Drennan explained that when a case comes to trial, the Crown Attorney may present the suspect identity chart and ask if it was filled out by the witness. Without the chart, the officer said, the witness would have to remember the description, even if the case goes to trial several months later.

The chart also enables the police to look for the suspect as soon as the call comes in, rather than after they have attended at the home of the caller.

Homeowners at the meeting were concerned over the badgering of witnesses in the courtroom. Drennan told them if they are telling the truth, there is no reason to feel frustrated or humiliated because their story can't change no matter how rough the treatment.

When calling the police, Drennan said, the caller is in contact with the main switchboard for all of Halton. The community must be identified immediately and what the problem is. The caller is then transferred to a dispatch for the community in question, who will take the information. With an identity chart, the dispatcher can immediately put out a description of the suspect.

A third meeting is scheduled for the Neighborhood Watch series on May 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Acton High School.

Councillor Rick Bonnette, the driving force behind the Watch Program was pleased with the added turnout at last week's meeting. The first meeting saw 80 people come out, and an increase of almost 25 was very satisfying, Bonnette said. Residents from all over town came, identifying the need for town-wide Watch programs.

Many have already been victims of crimes and want to know how to protect themselves from it happening again.

Councillors Ross Knechtel and Dave Whiting were also at the meeting.

Acton resident Bill Taylor discusses Neighborhood Watch with Halton Hills' new crime prevention officer Bob Ustrzycki.

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# PUBLIC MEETING!

FOR ALL

## HALTON HILLS RATEPAYERS

REGARDING

# NEW TOWN HALL

TUESDAY, MAY 10TH AT 7.30 P.M.

AT THE

## CULTURAL CENTRE, GEORGETOWN

(MAIN AT CHURCH STREET)

THIS MEETING IS HOSTED BY THE GEORGETOWN B.I.A.

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

"SPACE NEEDS STUDY"

This Saturday, May 7, 10:30 a.m.

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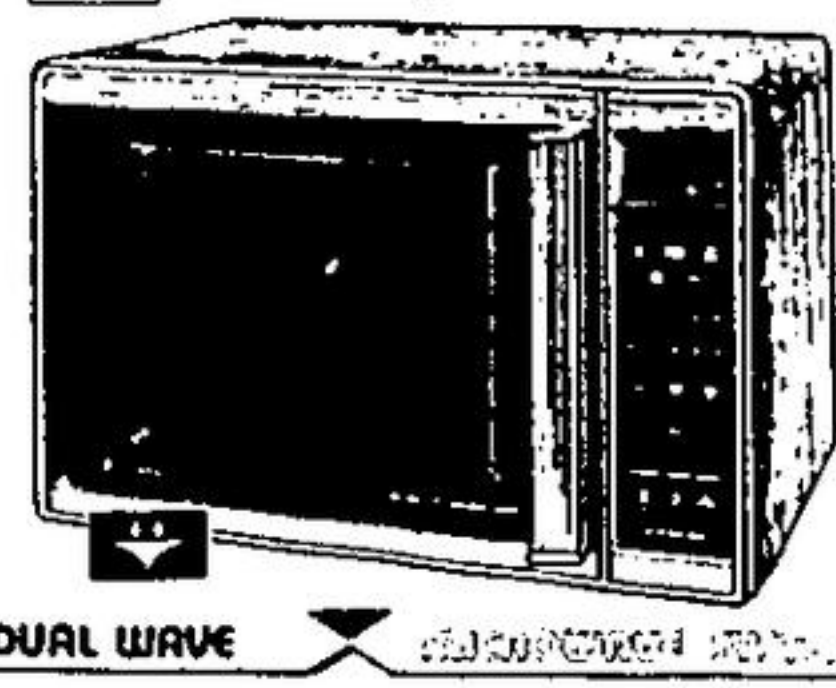
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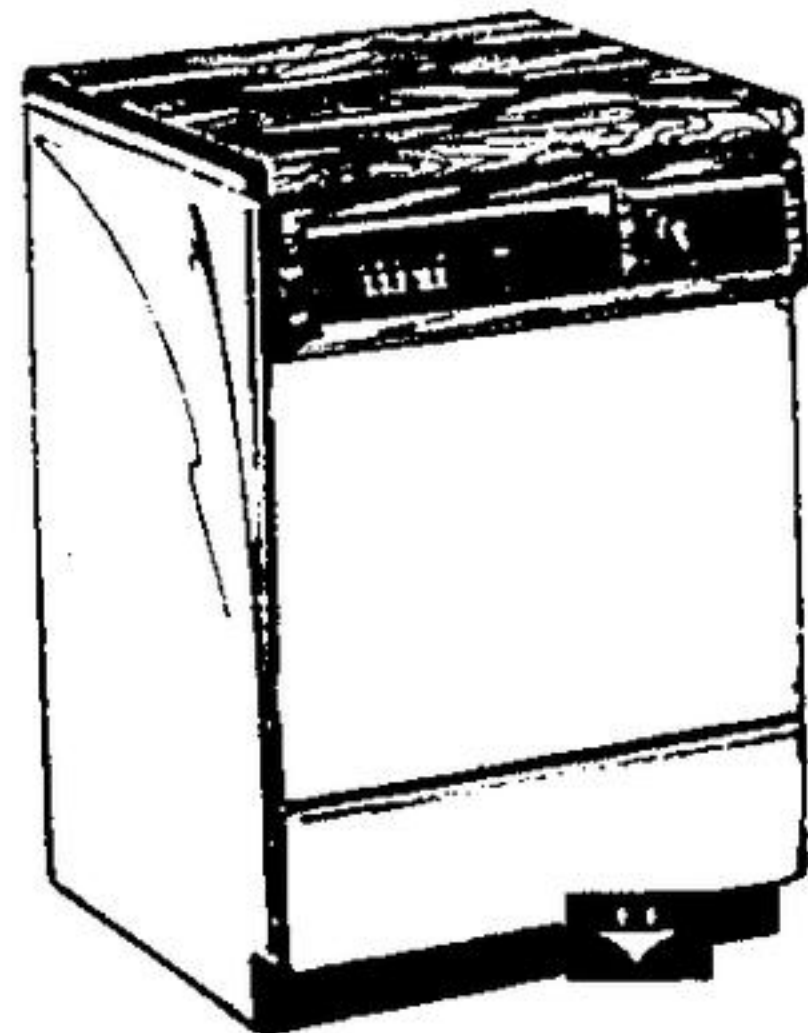


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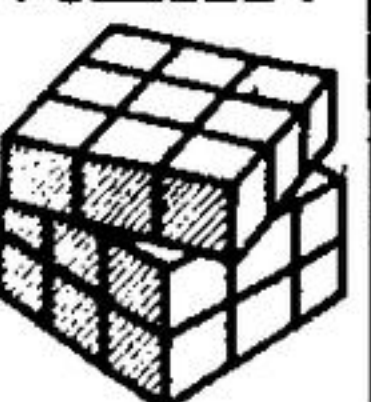
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ALL WEEK AT THE GOBLET

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